United Nations E/CN.17/IFF/1999/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 February 1999

Original: English

Commission on Sustainable Development
Intergovernmental Forum on Forests
Third session
Geneva, 3–14 May 1999

Programme element I.a

Promoting and facilitating the implementation of the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and reviewing, monitoring and reporting on progress in the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests

Promoting and facilitating implementation

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note provides an update for further deliberations on programme element I.a of the programme of work of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF).

2. Programme element I.a was defined by the Forum at its first session as follows:

> "*Promote and facilitate implementation.* For example, consider the launching of programmes by countries, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and major groups to implement all proposals for action developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF); consider appropriate mechanisms for the mobilization of financial resources, institutional and human resources and capacity-building, with particular attention to the role of women" (see E/CN.17/IFF/1997/4, para. 7, category I (a)).

3. The present note provides the basis for further deliberations by IFF on programme element I.a based on the outcome of the substantive discussion of this programme element at the second session of IFF, held at Geneva from 24 August to 4 September 1998 (see E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14, sect. I.A, in particular, para. 9 (a), which is closely related to the substantive discussion under IFF category II concerning finance, technical assistance and the transfer of environmentally sound technology).

99-04227 (E) 120399

4. The substantive discussions on this programme element at the second session of IFF took place against the background of a high degree of consensus in support of the implementation of the IPF proposals for action and the nature of the Secretary-General's report, which was considered almost by definition a "good news story" since it reflected a mandate to consider the launching of programmes. It described the many ways in which countries, international organizations, NGOs, the private sector and major groups had become actively engaged in the implementation of the IPF proposals for action. The sheer volume of those activities was impressive, and showed the degree to which the many interested parties had become engaged in and had taken note of the outcome of the IPF process. It was stressed, however, that a systematic reporting framework would only emerge as progress was made under IFF programme element I.b.

5. The Forum may therefore wish to revisit this programme element, and to seek to remove the last remaining square bracket contained in section I.A, paragraph 9 (a) of the report on the second session (E/CN.17/IFF/1998/14), following substantive discussion on programme element I.b and in the light of progress made in the deliberation of programme elements II.a–e.